

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1 – 97. (Cancelled).

98. (Currently amended) A method for assaying cell movement comprising:

- a) providing:
 - i) a multiwell plate comprising masks for wells in said multiwell plate, wherein said wells have a bottom surface and said masks provide a masked portion and unmasked portion in said wells;
 - ii) a cell seeding device configured for use with said multiwell plate;
and
 - iii) cells
- b) inserting said cell seeding device into at least one well of said multiwell plate, wherein said cell seeding device contacts said bottom surface of said well to defines a predetermined area on said bottom surface of said at least one well;
- c) contacting said at least one well in said multiwell plate with said cells ~~via said cell seeding device~~;
- d) allowing the cells to attach in the presence of the cell seeding device, under conditions such so that said cells are seeded in said predetermined area on said bottom surface of said at least one well and excluded from the remainder of said bottom surface of said at least one well due to the presence of the cell seeding device;
- e) removing said cell seeding device;
- f) culturing said cells;
- g) assaying said cells for movement from said predetermined area, wherein said cells are assayed in said unmasked portion in said wells.

99. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said assaying is selected from the group consisting of colorimetric, fluorimetric, optical density, liquid crystal and light scattering assays.

100. (Previously presented) The method of claim 99, wherein said assays are read by a plate reader.

101. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said multiwell plate is selected from the group consisting of 6, 12, 24, 36, 96, 384, or 1536 well plates.

102. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said at least one well is configured to orient mesogens.

103. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 98, further comprising the step of contacting said cells with a test compound ~~is~~ suspected of promoting or inhibiting movement of said ~~at least one~~ cells.

104. (Cancelled).

105. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 98, wherein said predetermined area is circular.

106. (Withdrawn) A cell assay system comprising:

- a) a multiwell plate comprising masks for wells in said multiwell plate, wherein said masks provide a masked portion and unmasked portion in said wells, wherein said wells have a bottom surface;
- b) a cell seeding device insertable into at least one well of said multiwell plate, wherein said cell seeding device defines a predetermined area on said

bottom surface of said at least one well, so that when cells are applied to said at least one well said cells are seeded in said predetermined area.

107. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, further comprising an assay readout device.
108. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, wherein said assay readout device is selected from the group consisting of colorimetric, fluorimetric, optical density, liquid crystal and light scattering readout devices.
109. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, wherein said multiwell plate is selected from the group consisting of 6, 12, 24, 36, 96, 384, or 1536 well plates.
110. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 106, wherein said cell seeding device comprises a substantially circular surface having therein an opening so that when said insert is positioned in said well the bottom surface of said well is exposed by said opening in said insert, said insert further comprising lift piece so that said insert can be lifted from said well.
111. (Withdrawn) A cell assay kit comprising:
 - a) a multiwell plate comprising masks for wells in said multiwell plate, wherein said masks provide a masked portion and unmasked portion in said wells, wherein said wells have a bottom surface;
 - b) a cell seeding device insertable into at least one well of said multiwell plate, wherein said cell seeding device defines a predetermined area on said bottom surface of said at least one well, so that when cells are applied to said at least one well said cells are seeded in said predetermined area.
112. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 111, wherein said multiwell plate is selected from the group consisting of 6, 12, 24, 36, 96, 384, or 1536 well plates.

113. (Withdrawn) The kit of Claim 111, wherein said cell seeding device comprises a substantially circular surface having therein an opening so that when said insert is positioned in said well the bottom surface of said well is exposed by said opening in said insert, said insert further comprising lift piece so that said insert can be lifted from said well.

114. (Currently amended) A method for assaying cell movement comprising:

- a) providing:
 - i) a multiwell plate comprising wells have a bottom surface;
 - ii) a cell seeding device configured for use with said multiwell plate;
and
 - iii) cells
- b) inserting said cell seeding device into at least one well of said multiwell plate, wherein said cell seeding device contacts said bottom surface of said well to define a predetermined area on said bottom surface of said at least one well;
- c) contacting said at least one well in said multiwell plate with said cells via said cell seeding device;
- d) allowing the cells to attach in the presence of the cell seeding device, under conditions such so that said cells are seeded in said predetermined area on said bottom surface of said at least one well and excluded from the remainder of said bottom surface of said at least one well due to the presence of the cell seeding device;
- e) removing said cell seeding device;
- f) culturing said cells;
- g) assaying said cells for movement from said predetermined area, wherein said cells are assayed in said unmasked portion in said wells.

115. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 114, wherein said assaying is selected from the group consisting of colorimetric, fluorimetric, optical density, liquid crystal and light scattering assays.

116. (Previously presented) The method of claim 114, wherein said assays are read by a plate reader.

117. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 114, wherein said multiwell plate is selected from the group consisting of 6, 12, 24, 36, 96, 384, or 1536 well plates.

118. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 114, wherein said at least one well is configured to orient mesogens.

119. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 114, further comprising the step of contacting said cells with a test compound suspected of promoting or inhibiting movement of said ~~at least one~~ cells.

120. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 114, wherein said predetermined area is circular.